

Message Text

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47

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4413

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0360

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU

SUBJECT: BREAKFAST WITH PRIME MINISTER THORN

REF: LUXEMBOURG 355

1. FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF FOREIGN
MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL PIERRE WURTH AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT
TO THE PRIME MINISTER PAUL HELMINGER, WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANYING
THORN TO THE BREAKFAST WITH PRESIDENT FORD ON MAY 29.

2. PIERRE WURTH'S POSITION IN GOVERNMENT IS EQUIVALENT TO
THAT OF DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER. HE HAS EXERCISED THESE
FUNCTIONS FOR FOUR YEARS BUT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES INCREASED
SHARPLY IN JUNE 1974 WHEN THORN BECAME PRIME MINISTER IN
ADDITION TO FOREIGN MINISTER. WURTH IS ALSO POLITICAL
DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY. HIS LAST TWO FOREIGN ASSIGNMENTS
WERE: AMBASSADOR TO THE USSR, AND LUXEMBOURG PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS. WURTH STRONGLY BELIEVES
THAT HE CAN BE A GOOD "EUROPEAN" AND A PARTISAN OF THE ATLANTIC
PARTNERSHIP AT THE SAME TIME. HE IS AN EXCELLENT SOURCE OF
INFORMATION FOR US OFFICIALS, AND HE WILL HANDLE LIAISON
FOR US/EC CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EMBASSY WHEN LUXEMBOURG
OCCUPIES THE EC PRESIDENCY DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY-JUNE
1976. WURTH IS PERSONALLY SOMEWHAT RESERVED, AND REMAINS
IN THE SHADOWS IN THORN'S PRESENCE. HOWEVER, HIS SUBSTANTIVE
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INFLUENCE ON THORN IS CONSIDERABLE, AND THORN DEFERS INCREAS-

INGLY TO WURTH'S JUDGEMENT ON POLICY MATTERS. WURTH SPEAKS
EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

3. PAUL HELMINGER. HELMINGER IS A YOUNG CAREER DIPLOMAT WHO IN APRIL 1975 WAS RECALLED FROM GENEVA (WHERE HE WAS LUXEMBOURG'S REPRESENTATIVE TO CSCE) TO HEAD THORN'S SMALL PERSONAL STAFF. TEMPERAMENTALLY HE IS MUCH LIKE THORN, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN A CLOSE AND EFFICIENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO MEN. HELMINGER HAS ALWAYS HAD EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH US OFFICIALS AND SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH. HE WILL PROBABLY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WRITING THORN'S ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. FARKAS

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